

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (New) A method of manufacturing a tank suitable for storing very cold cryogenic liquids, such as liquefied ethylene (LEG) or natural gas (LNG) or a corresponding medium, the basic form of the tank corresponding to a rectangular prism and being manufactured from aluminium or the like material, wherein the tank is produced at least mainly from prefabricated structure elements of few different types so that plane elements meant as shell elements are produced by mechanically extruding profile elements including a plane part and a stiffening part the stiffening part extending essentially perpendicular to the plane part and having a free distal end relative to the plane part, and the profile elements are welded to each other by their plane parts by using friction welding, and the plane elements hereby produced are provided with longitudinal and/or transverse stiffeners produced by mechanically extruding profile elements which are welded to each other by using friction welding, and that the plane elements having stiffeners are attached to each other and/or to separately produced edge and/or corner elements into self-supporting volume units having at least four sides, the said stiffeners extending only partly through the internal space of said volume units between the opposite sides thereof.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein in order to form a tank of the desired size one or more volume units are chosen, the volume units being arranged one after the other and connected to each other.

16. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the prefabricated structure elements are precisely machined to the predetermined dimension and the ends of the plane elements and the profiles are bevelled for producing a correct and precise welding groove, most preferably by machining with a shape cutter.

17. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the extruded profile elements of the plane elements are made symmetrical in relation to the normal plane of the plane part and their stiffener part is T- or I-shaped in cross-section.

18. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the dimensions of the profile element in the cross-section plane are varied according to the planned location of the plane element in the ready tank.

19. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the edge and corner elements are made from rolled plate bent to the shape and dimensions of the desired radius.

20. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein when attaching the volume units to each other a splash bulkhead produced from extruded profile by using friction welding is installed between them, the splash bulkhead comprising a number of openings connecting the adjacent volume units.

21. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the plane element used in the shell construction and splash bulkheads of the volume unit is dimensioned so that it is typically about 16 x 16 meters.

22. (New) An aluminium tank or the like, suitable for storing LNG or the like medium to be stored in very low temperatures, the basic form of the tank corresponding to a rectangular prism, wherein the tank is produced at least mainly from prefabricated construction elements of few different types, the elements including plane elements to be used as shell panels of the tank, the plane elements being produced of mechanically extruded aluminium profile elements or the like, the profile elements including a plane part and a stiffening part, the stiffening part extending essentially perpendicular to the plane

part and having a free distal end relative to the plane part, and the profile elements being welded by their plane parts to each other by means of friction welding to produce the plane elements, and the plane elements being provided with longitudinal and/or transverse stiffeners being produced of mechanically extruded aluminium profile elements or the like welded to each other by means of friction welding, and the plane elements having stiffeners being attached to each other and/or to separately produced edge and/or corner elements into self-supporting volume units having at least four sides, the said stiffeners extending only partly through the internal space of said volume units between the opposite sides thereof.

23. (New) A tank according to claim 22, wherein in order to form a tank of the desired size one or more volume units are arranged one after the other and connected to each other.

24. (New) A tank according to claim 22, wherein the tank is formed from a number of prefabricated, self-supporting volume units arranged one after the other, the volume units being separated from each other by a splash bulkhead.

25. (New) A tank according to claim 22, wherein the tank is provided with means known as such, such as a tube tower, for filling and emptying the tank.

26. (New) A tank according to claim 22, wherein the extruded profile elements of the plane elements are symmetrical in cross-section in relation to the normal plane of the plane part and their stiffening part is T- or I-shaped in cross-section.